



THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

NUMBER 88



JOIN **The Home Guard** **WHY?**

- 1) Many members of the Ashted Company have been 'called up' for service in the Navy, Army & Air Force and replacement are Urgently Needed.
- 2) The H.G. is part of the Armed Forces of the Crown and owing to its increasing efficiency is being given extra duties and so relieving regular troops for service elsewhere.
- 3) Recruits are wanted now so that training can be carried out in time for the spring offensive.
- 4) The existence of the Home Guard in every town and village last summer was one of the main factors in delaying the Nazi invasion. **Enrol NOW** and help do it again.



In the years when our Country
was in mortal danger

Stanley Richard BOTLY

who served 9th July 1940 - 31st Dec. 1944
gave generously of his time and
powers to make himself ready
for her defence by force of arms
and with his life if need be.

George R.I.

THE HOME

Call at Ashted Police Station or Company H.Q.
for a form



The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association

President
Colonel A. C. Ward OBE DL

Chairman
Lieutenant Colonel F. B. Herd TD JP DL

Association Secretary and Editor
Major A. W. Russell MBE

Benevolence Secretary
Major J. C. Rogerson

Association correspondence to:
42 Lincoln Drive
Pyrford
Woking
Surrey GU22 8RR

Telephone/Fax: 01932 344150
E-mail:
secqueensroyalsurreys@hotmail.co.uk

Regimental website:
www.queensroyalsurreys.org.uk



Forecast of Events

2011

10th February	SOBRAON DAY (1846).
14th March	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association, Charity Trustees and Officers' Club Meetings - Clandon.
23rd April	YPRES DAY (1915).
28th April	The East Surrey Regiment Officers' Reunion Lunch.
5th May	Golf Society Spring Meeting – Sudbrook Park.
16th May	ALBUHERA DAY (1811).
23rd May	President's Reception for the Mayors of Surrey – Clandon.
(date tbc)	5 Queen's OMA Annual Dinner – Farnham. Details from: I Chatfield, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Surrey GU7 3NN.
1st June	THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE (1794).
5th June	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Church Service to mark the 350th anniversary – Guildford Cathedral 1130 a.m.
1st August	MINDEN DAY.
9th September	SALERNO DAY
10th September	6th(Bermondsey), 2/6th and 2/7th Queen's Royal Regiment OCAs Combined Reunion.
1st October	East Surrey Regiment OCA Reunion – location tbc.
3rd October	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club Ladies' Luncheon - Clandon.
5th October	Golf Society Autumn Meeting – Woking.
14th October	350th Anniversary of the First Muster on Putney Heath.
4th November	The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association Annual Reunion - Union Jack Club.
20th December	BRITISH BATTALION DAY (1941).

o o o

Frontispiece:

In May 1940 the allied forces were in retreat back to the Channel Ports in the face of the German onslaught during which the axis forces had dropped parachutists as part of their offensive strategy. On May 14th 1940 Mr Anthony Eden broadcast a request for volunteers for the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). The duties of the LDV were to contain and to report on parachutists. By mid summer the remnants of the allied forces on the continent had been evacuated, largely via Dunkirk, and Great Britain feared the threat of German invasion. The Home Guard, as the LDV had been renamed on the 22nd July 1940, became an integral part of the plans for the defense of the United Kingdom homeland. The frontispiece shows a Home Guard recruiting leaflet and the certificate that was issued to Home Guard personnel when the force was disbanded, together with a watercolour by Bryan Fosten of a Home Guard member and a photograph of members of the Bookham Home Guard.

President's Notes

I must start by thanking Ian Chatfield and John Broom for organising respectively 5 Queen's OMA dinner at the Farnham Drill Hall and the East Surrey Reunion at Clapham Junction Drill Hall. Unfortunately, the Clapham Junction Drill Hall is being sold for re-development so next year's reunion will be either at the Kingston Drill Hall or 3 PWRR Farnham. Attendance at both functions was over 120 – remarkable when you remember that the amalgamation took place in 1959.

We have been very busy during the last 6 months planning the refurbishment of the museum. Our aims are to bring the display up to the present date (including both The Queen's Regiment and PWRR) and to tell the story better. Already, the shop has been moved, new story boards written, an application to Heritage Lottery Fund for £47,000 has been submitted, and much design work is in progress. My thanks to Col David Dickins, Tony Russell, Ian Chatfield and all the Museum Volunteers. We plan to reopen on 1st March 2011. We do seek your help in making the improvements and if anyone has any artefacts which could be exhibited amongst the new displays please do contact Ian Chatfield. We particularly want items relating to service through the 1960s, 70s and 80s in Aden, in BAOR and on Northern Ireland Tours, and photos of our regimental family.

On 14th October 1661, the Earl of Peterborough raised the Tangier Regiment on Putney Heath. So next year will be our 350th Anniversary. It will also be the last year that our Regimental Association exists in its current form. We have planned the following events:

23rd May – Our annual President's Reception, to be held in the marble Hall at Clandon, when we will be inviting many more guests than usual and viewing our refurbished museum.

5th June – Our main event based on our annual Cathedral Service at Guildford. We will have a large marquee for refreshments (free) after the Service and the Kohima Band of the PWRR will be present. If you feel that we should have a march past – do let us know.

I have suggested to the RHQ PWRR that on 14th October there is a parade on Putney Heath – we will give you details in our next Newsletter.

At the end of this year the management of our museum will be amalgamated with the PWRR and Queen's Museum at Dover Castle. At the end of 2011 we (the Association) will hand over complete responsibility for benevolence (together with £1M) to RHQ PWRR. We will also be giving our Territorial Trustees extra funds to support Branches. We hope that you will all join Friends of Surrey Infantry Museum (see insert) that will provide through a Newsletter (if sufficient join) a means of keeping in contact. One way or another we will try to continue our reunion at the Union Jack Club whilst numbers hold up. This year for the first time we are not over booked.

I recently at a dinner had the privilege of sitting next to L/Cpl Beharry VC and a few days later attended a fund raising event in Bramley Village Hall for the PWRR Benevolence Fund (which raised £5,000). Both occasions reinforced my high opinion of and pride in our successor Regiment – The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment - who deploy to Afghanistan next year. We can be very proud that our successors maintain the high standards and traditions of our Regiments. They deserve our support.

Gill and I wish to all a very happy Christmas and happy 2011 and hope to see you at some of the functions during our 350th anniversary year.

Tony Ward

Stop Press.

We have just been informed HLF have granted £47,000 to help the refurbishment of the Museum.

o o o



The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

The Regiment has moved into a more settled time with no unit combat deployments. Two Commanding Officers have changed - Lt Col F C Sykes has handed over command of the 1st Battalion to Lt Col J C Coote DSO and Lt Col D K Mogg TD has

handed over command of the 3rd Battalion to Lt Col J E Minton MBE.

The 1st Battalion prepared itself for Canada with courses and cadres to be ready for the team spirit and hard work that 6 weeks in Calgary would demand. At the end of July they deployed as part of 20 Armoured Brigade to Exercise Prairie Thunder held at the British Army Unit Suffield (BATUS) based in Alberta and recently returned to Paderborn.



The successful B Company team headed by Sgt Pankhurst gained a Gold Medal in The Cambrian Patrol Competition

The 2nd Battalion prepared itself for the move back from Cyprus to Woolwich and arrived in August. Any battalion move involves a massive amount of work by all departments. Cyprus is no exception. The prospect of 2 years Public Duties at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and the Tower of London has been taken up as a challenge and everyone is now working on the drill and uniforms that will make the 2nd Battalion outstanding during their time.



The 2nd Battalion in ceremonial uniform parade for the official re-opening of Woolwich Garrison.

The new base at Woolwich is a change from Cyprus. Every soldier has his own individual en suiteroom, a double bed and his own privacy. Everyone is now improving the standard of Drill to out smart the Guards as can be seen from the photo above.



*Members of 2 PWRR, who were invited to the premiere of the film *The Expendables*, pictured with the stars of the film.*

The 3rd Battalion had its camp at Warcop with good attendance. B Company The London Regiment has a large contingent in Afghanistan serving with the strong London Regiment Company.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review has now been announced but the effect and impact on the Regiment and RHQ has not yet been disseminated. It will be interesting to see how the Army will adjust to meet future conflicts.

Benevolence

Major John Rogerson, based at RHQ PWRR at Canterbury, has continued to administer the Charity's individual benevolence casework and we are extremely grateful for all his assistance.

During 2010 to 21st October 50 cases were investigated and 38 individual grants-in-aid were approved (of these 10 cases were to former embodied Territorial members). The Charity paid out £25,562 as individual grants-in-aid. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped to provide five further electrically powered vehicles, five orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to three disabled home adaptations. Of the 12 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Charities assisted ten after we had contacted them. Two cases were not receiving such allowances as attendance, mobility, pensions credit or rent rebate.

The Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) has provided £2,125 in General Grants. Nine ABF Annuities were administered; the ABF generously contributed £65 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for four Nursing Home Fees grants, each of £1,560 from the ABF and £1,000 from the Regimental Charity per case per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. The ABF total grants in support were £8,440 (including annuities and nursing home fees). The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the ABF which is always helpful with prompt action and advice; in May the Regimental Charity made a grant of £6,000 to the ABF.

The Queen's Surreys Territorial Trust

(by Adrian Birtles)

I have long felt that "The Queen's Surreys TA Trust", as it is usually known, is probably one of the least-known parts of the Regimental Family, so Tony Russell's request for a short article about it for the Newsletter was welcome.

Its history goes back to 1912 at least. The existence of the Drill Hall at St. Johns Hill, Battersea (better known to many as Clapham Junction, being situated opposite that railway station, and still in use by the Regiment although now threatened with closure) owes much to the generosity of the late Sydney James, Lord Wandsworth. When he died in 1912, he left in his Will two houses in trust to the Regiment, the rents from which were to support our predecessor units at the Drill Hall. Much later, these houses were sold when it became obvious that the income from investing the sale proceeds would far exceed the rents receivable. Thus was born the "Lord Wandsworth Fund".

Other funds originated from the many of our predecessor TA battalions which set up funds to provide non-public money to support their activities, these usually being known as the "X Battalion CO's Fund", or similar; these charities were individually generally quite small. Many battalions also set up small charities to own and manage their chattels, ie, their collections of silverware (cups, trophies and table silver) and paintings, and there were large numbers of these items.

The present "Queen's Surreys (Territorials) Charitable Fund and Chattels", to give our Charity its full official name, was set up in 1972 to take over and act as the umbrella organisation for these many individual charities. A total of 17 small charities was taken over, and these were quickly amalgamated into three charitable financial funds plus a chattels charity. Why not amalgamate into a single fund? Because the purposes of the original small charities were too disparate to be subsumed into a single charitable purpose. This sub-division is an administrative nuisance, particularly for the Clerk to the Trustees, who has to maintain three sets of accounts plus records of the chattels. However, this does not cause significant practical problems, since the combined purposes of the three funds cover well the needs of the present day. The TA Trust is able to make grants from its investment income for almost any reasonable purpose connected with

the Regiment's present-day units, the emphasis being on the TA but including regulars and cadets; it can also make grants to Old Comrades organisations and to the Regimental Museums. The TA Trust has powers to make grants for benevolence, but all requests for benevolence are handled by the Regimental Association.

The TA Trust is not a large charity, but its annual income is large enough for useful grants to be made. Any organisation in the Regimental Family wishing to apply for a grant is very welcome to do so; applications should be made in writing (or by e-mail) to the Clerk to the Trustees in advance of the Trustees' Annual Meeting, which is held each February. Applicants should give clear details of the amount sought and its purpose.

But what of the chattels?

When the TA was run down after WWII and again in the 1960's, many of the battalion chattels charities became orphans, their parent units having been amalgamated or disbanded. As a result, the TA Trust inherited large quantities of silver and pictures; a minority of the items were of real historical importance, a larger number could be termed "useful", but large numbers were in reality of little use once their original owners had gone; with a few notable exceptions, few of these chattels were of significant financial worth. Ownership of these chattels is a very mixed blessing for the TA Trustees, since every item has to be administered, maintained and insured, all of which cost money but yield no income. The Trustees therefore adopted the policy of keeping in perpetuity the items of real historical value, keeping other good quality items for as long as there is a current use in the Regiment, and disposing of other, surplus, items. Retained items are loaned to units or the Regimental Museums, and are well looked-after. There has been a number of "silver sales" over the years to dispose of surplus items (the latest having been in 2009); members of the Regimental Association are always informed of such sales but, as the Trustees are duty-bound to obtain the best price possible, "discounts to members" cannot unfortunately be offered.

The TA Trustees are drawn from present and former members of the Regiment, and include a Trustee who is a serving member of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment appointed by the Colonel of the Regiment; usually this is the current Officer Commanding A Company 3 PWRR, based at Farnham. The present Chairman of the TA Trustees is Captain Adrian Birtles, and the Clerk to the Trustees is Geoffrey Cameron, Esq.

Looking to the future, because the purpose of the TA Trust is to provide support to Present Units, Old Comrades and Museums, the Trust is not affected by changes in Regimental titles, nor by changes to the Regimental Charity and Association. The Trust will continue, therefore, for as long as its purpose continues to exist. What changes the current Defence Review may bring remains to be seen but on the basis of previous history, the need for the TA Trust seems likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

The 2nd World War in the Far East

As noted in the last Newsletter, the war against Japan continued after VE Day in May 1945. 187 members of the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment had been killed in action prior to the surrender of Singapore; a further 149 would die as prisoners of war in Japanese hands before Japanese surrender.

In September 1943 the 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, which had been in India, moved to the Arakan and went in to action against the Japanese. In May 1944 the unit moved to Kohima and fought in the operations which turned back a major Japanese offensive. The Battalion participated in operations in Burma until the Japanese surrender on 14th July 1945.

The 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment, which had fought in the Middle East and North Africa, moved to Ceylon in 1943 for jungle training. During 1944 as part of General Orde Wingate's Chindit Force it took part in the deep penetration operations against the Japanese forces in Burma before redeploying to India in August 1944.

The Regimental archive held at the Surrey History Centre includes some details about one of the lesser-known operations in the Far East theatres in which some East Surreys served during WW2. This was 204 British Mission to China.

In 1940, it was considered politically expedient that some sort of gesture of support towards China should be made as part of the Allied strategy. Accordingly, 204 Mission was formed. Organised on Commando lines, the unit was composed of volunteers; Lt (later Major) English, Cpl Evans, Pte Phillips and Pte Wheeler of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment, then in Northern Malaya, volunteered for service.

After rigorous training in jungle warfare and guerrilla tactics, the unit of 250 officers and men crossed into China by the Burma Road in January 1942. Cut off from the outside world, the Road provided China with its only life line. It was an incredible achievement of engineering, being literally cut out of the mountain side. Eventually the Mission arrived at the base where they joined the Chinese battalions to which they were to be attached. 204 Mission instructed the Chinese in demolitions and carried out field exercises

The Regimental archive includes the following account of Mission 204 written by Major RW English.

"204 British Military Mission to China 1940/41"

During 1941, prior to Japan entering the 2nd World War, Winston Churchill, as a gesture towards Chiang Kai Shek and the Kuomintang (Nationalist Government), decided on the formation of a British Military Mission to China in the event of Japan entering the War. 204 Mission was established for the purpose.

The Mission was to consist of 4 Contingents drawn from the following operational areas: Malaya – Hong Kong & Burma – Australian Units (currently serving in Malaya) – Middle East (British Commando Units). Total strength approx. 200-300.

Example: Malayan Contingent

1 Lt. Col. Neil Campbell**	1 Capt. Ian Abbey
1 Major R. W. English	3 Capt's Chinese speaking Brit. Officers
1 Sgt. Major	40 N.C.O.'s and O.R.'s
3 Sgts.	

**Neil Campbell's father at one time commanded one of the East Surrey Bns.

Early in 1940 I had joined the 2nd Battalion serving in Shanghai; towards the end of the year we were withdrawn to reinforce the Singapore Command. Whilst there a request for volunteers to join a special operation were called for and I responded.

In 1941 we moved to Alor Star, south of the Thailand (Siam) border. It was from Alor Star that I was posted back to Singapore, together with Cpl. Evans and Privates Wheeler (Bert) and Phillips to join 204 Mission as members of the Malayan Contingent.

From Singapore we proceeded to Kuantan on the east coast to carry out initial jungle and beach landing training before sailing for Rangoon. On arrival in Burma we continued up-country to Maymyo where the Bush Warfare School was being set up as H.Q. for the Mission. Here we were joined by Capt. "Mad" Mike Calvert (later to become Brig. "Mad" Mike Calvert of the Chindits). In Maymyo we began intense training in jungle familiarisation, demolitions and guerrilla tactics. As soon as Japan entered the War in Dec. 1941, preparations were made for an early departure into China by way of the Burma Road. The Middle East Contingent remained at the Bush Warfare School in reserve but as events developed were soon active inside Burma. The survivors eventually escaped with the withdrawing forces in the great trek out to India.



Entering China at frontier post on Burma Road, 1942

For us it was an incredible journey through the mountainous border region into China the road at times reaching 9,000 ft. The journey through Hunan Province and onwards took several weeks, involving travel by truck, rail, river barge, small san-pans and finally on foot. We lived on the san-pans in all ranks parties of 5-6. At the start Chinese crews were provided but during the first night they disappeared and we were left to pole and haul and generally manhandle the craft up-stream for many days. There were possibly 20 rapids to negotiate by winch and manpower but only two san-pans and supplies were lost during this stage.



Group on Burma Road including Sgt Evans and Cpl Dare

Since leaving Burma we had been living on the country as there were no Lines of Communication from now on. Conditions during the journey were strenuous and often hazardous, at the same time interesting and often exciting. For the East Surrey members, we eventually found ourselves back to within 500 miles of Shanghai.

The Japs often made reference to our whereabouts in broadcasts, when they referred to us as "Churchill's Butchers". At this point, I should mention the dagger/knife. They had been made locally with the blades manufactured from old vehicle springs.

At one stage during our stay when the situation in Burma became desperate we were ordered to retrace our journey in an attempt to assist in keeping the Burma Road open. Fortunately for us, it was too late as Burma had been rapidly overrun and we were cut off.

Back we went, this time to a position in the mountainous area of eastern Kiangsi Province. The Japs had been occupying the east coast and part of northern China since the 1937 incident, only advancing inland after the harvest, when crops were confiscated and often villages destroyed. The situation was extremely difficult for the Kuomintang were occupied in the south by the advance of the Communists under Mao and his Long March northwards, eventually leading to the Communist Civil War. Our numerous moves had made it necessary to leave dumps of supplies and the Kuomintang fully intended

to make use of these supplies in their fight against the Communists.

After 12 months most members of our Mission were suffering from malnutrition, malaria, dysentery and poor health generally; a decision to withdraw was taken. We were able to retrace our route to the original truck and fuel dump and continue to road by Kunming to Yunan Province. From there we were air-lifted over the famous Hump Route to Calcutta by the wonderful old Dakota!

After a brief medical check-up and period of convalescence where necessary we went our various ways. Sgt. Evans, I believe, joined the Chindits and I understand, sadly, was killed in Burma. After a spell at Deolali I was posted to Force 136 until returning to U.K. at the end of 1945 for a welcome leave after 6 years overseas.

All ranks reacted extremely well under the most difficult and unusual circumstances encountered, for so often it must have been hard to understand exactly what it was all about. We saw no direct action during our 12 months in China.

Two men died from tick-typhus, my signaller and one of the Australian Sgts. Whilst in China Officers and Warrant Officers were promoted to Local Acting Unpaid Ranks to correspond with the rank of the Chinese Officers to whom they were attached in the Chinese Guerilla Battalions."

(Editor's note: Bob English died aged 90 on 13th March 2005. As noted in his account, after his time with 204 Mission he went on to serve with Force 136 – this was the codename for the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in the Far East with which he served in India and Ceylon. He left the Army in 1946.)

o o o

An Account of a Tribute

The Regimental Archive includes a copy of the text of a Newspaper cutting passed by Mr M.J.P. Sheeran to the OCA Secretary in 1953. Unfortunately neither the name of the paper from whence the cutting was taken nor the date of publication were recorded.

The Queen's Regiment.
Tribute to those who fell on Jail Hill.
(By a military observer).

"As the strains of 'O God our help in ages past' rose from four or five hundred throats in the stillness of the mountains, Nagas paused at their work in Kohima village and gazed at the hill from which the singing came. British and Indian troops encamped across the Dinapur Road stood stock still listening, sharing in the emotions of their comrades.

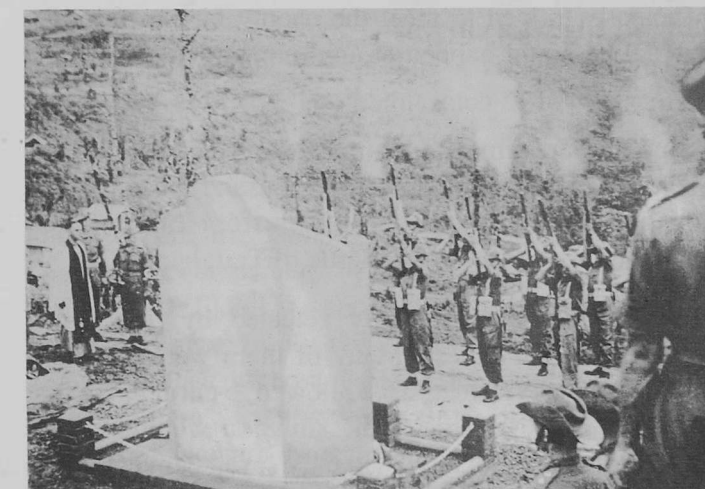
This was The Queen's Day, a solemn reminder of and touching tribute to the men of The Queen's Royal Regiment who fell in the battles for this hill at Kohima on the Burma Front. Jail Hill it is called, and although

men of this battalion lost their lives in other sectors of the Kohima fighting, and over a period of many weeks, Jail Hill was The Queen's Hill, their own special prize. A Japanese nut – and a hard nut – given to them to crack, and well and truly cracked.

They had to capture it twice, for when on April 7th they first stormed up its slopes, they suffered such casualties that their possession of the crest could not be consolidated, and they withdrew. Four days later, at their own request, they attacked again, reinforced by Gurkhas who had been drafted to them from their own Brigade of the 7th Indian Division. This time they not only routed the enemy, but held their prize.

Now on this grey monsoon day, with rare bursts of sunshine playing tricks on the mountain sides, and the rain coming and going, a service was held to commemorate the 82 Officers and Men who fell during those grim attacks.

A memorial has been built on a terraced piece of land just below the summit. Built of cement, it stands well over six feet high – a simple triple column with gently arched top and the names of the fallen on the three panels. Among the names are those of one Officer and twelve men of the Gurkhas who fought with the battalion. After a hymn, the memorial was unveiled by the Commander of the 33rd Indian Corps, Lieut-General M.C.N. Stopford CB, DSO, MC, and was then dedicated by the Deputy Assistant Chaplain General, Lieut-Colonel The Reverend B. Stratton.



Three Volleys were fired by the Guard of Honour, and the buglers sent the haunting strains of the "Last Post" echoing down the valley. After the two minutes silence which followed, British and Gurkhas filed past the memorial one at a time to salute their comrades.

The Commanding Officer, who has commanded the Battalion in the Arakan and through the Dinapur Imphal Road fighting, laid a wreath on the memorial. It was a cross fashioned out of Kohima's wild flowers. Major-General F.W. Masservy, CB, DSO, commanding the 7th Indian Division, and the Brigade Commander were present."

o o o

The L D V (Local Defence Volunteers) & the Home Guard

(Compiled by Lt Col L M B Wilson)

During September 2010 the Country paid tribute to 'The Few'. During interviews many of the surviving pilots paid tribute to their ground crews and all the personnel in the background who supported them. Another body of men was raised in 1940 which became the Home Guard. The public's view of the Home Guard is the very popular TV series 'Dads Army' led by the indomitable Captain Mainwaring!

The only certain common fact between 'Dads Army' and the Home Guard was the composition of the units. Men came from all walks of life – many men into their sixty's and older - to serve their Country in its hour of need.

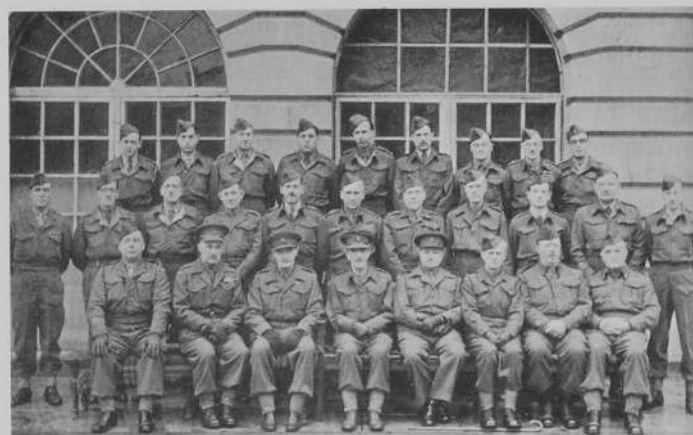
Initial Formation

Seventy years ago on May 14th 1940 Mr Anthony Eden, then Secretary of State for War made his famous broadcast for volunteers for the LDV (Local Defence Volunteers). In this he laid down the duties of the LDV – the forerunners of the Home Guard. These were to contain and report on parachutists. The chief difference between the LDV and any other form of military force raised in these islands since 1803 was that whereas the others (whether raised as Sir John Firebrace's Horse, the Militia Volunteers, or Territorial Army) had all been kept away from the front line until they were considered sufficiently trained to meet the enemy face to face, for the LDV it could happen at any moment from the time they enrolled.

Weapons were almost non-existent, except for a few thousand shotguns and seventy thousand rifles. Some patrols went out armed with pikes from *HMS Victory* which had been used in the Battle of Trafalgar.

The officers were originally selected by the Lords-Lieutenant of Counties. Many of them were over age. None but ex-servicemen were allowed to enrol in the first instance. Four years later the situation would be very different: the Home Guard had only seven per cent of ex-servicemen in its ranks; it had bred its own instructors, taught at its own Battle Craft and Weapon Training Schools. Nobody could have believed it possible in May 1940 that the LDV could ever reach such a stage of efficiency.

Immediately after Mr Eden's broadcast Police stations and drill halls had been inundated with the names of retired officers and men of all ranks keen to serve as volunteers. For example Sir Alexander Godley who had commanded an Army Corps in the First World War, and later became Governor of Gibraltar, volunteered at the age of 74. As the Home Guard grew in size it was decided to form Zones or Sectors throughout Great Britain. The rank structure was to be based on the Regular Army.



Sir Dudley Collins, Commander of V Sector and his Staff

Zone/Sector Commanders were commissioned as Brigadiers and battalion groups were commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel, with appropriate ranks for sub-units. Officers were appointed to commissions in the Home Guard in the rank appropriate to the appointments for which they had been selected. Any other forms of commission held by officers so appointed were held in abeyance so long as they retained their commissions in the Home Guard. Armlets were issued with the words 'Home Guard' embroidered on.

The age limit was 65, but Selection Boards in exceptional cases recommended appointments of officers over that age to ranks not lower than battalion commander. No medical standard was initially laid down, but officers had to have a sufficient degree of mental and physical fitness to carry out their duties. Voluntary resignations were normally the subject of three months notice.



*Lt Col R A Pepperall, M.C.:
A Home Guard Platoon Commander in May 1940, he would be a Battalion Commander from April 1942 until disbandment on 31st December 1945*

Threat of Invasion

The threat of invasion was taken very seriously and as a result a new improved status for the Home Guard was announced by Sir Edward Griggs, Parliamentary Under Secretary to the War Office in the House of Commons.

He emphasised that they wanted the Home Guard to have a military status as unimpeachable as that of any corps or regiment and to be equipped with an administrative system without too much formality and 'red tape', but they did not want it to be trained or strained beyond its powers as a voluntary spare-time force.

In reference to the administrative changes, he emphasised that operational command would remain vested in the Commander-in-Chief, Home Forces. The Home Guard was an indispensable element in his system of military defence.

It had been decided however, that the administrative side, should be implemented by a Director-General with headquarters at the War Office. He would bring together the staff which had so far worked partly under Sir Alan Brooke and partly under Sir John Brown. There remained the question of rank. At present Home Guards had no rank in relation to the Regular troops. The system had served very well for a period of emergency, but its defects were obvious and might prove serious.

'The Home Guard' he said 'numbers in its ranks many officers of wide experience in the three armed Services; and the Commander-in-Chief has drawn attention to the fact that one of these might very well be the most reliable commander of troops in his locality, should that locality find itself isolated in the mixed fighting which an invasion or an air landing might produce.'

'Unless, however, that commander held an active commission of some sort he could not be placed in command of any but Home Guard troops, and would in fact be subordinate to any Regular officer or non-commissioned officer who happened to be on the spot.'

Grant of Commissions

The King had therefore been pleased to direct that King's commissions should be granted to all approved commanders in the Home Guard, and that the Force should have a suitable complement of warrant and non-commissioned ranks. They would bear the traditional titles of their rank.

The commissions would be normally limited to the exercise of command over Home Guard troops, but they would enable Home Guard officers to be placed in command of all troops, regular or other, in any given locality should a specific emergency require. The commissions would also define the Home Guard officers' responsibility to the King in Parliament and they would carry with them the military titles traditional to each rank.



Officers of the 53rd Surreys in March 1941

These would be the only changes which they would introduce. The conditions of service in which volunteers were enrolled would not be altered at all. For example, officers would have no rights to disability pensions other than those obtaining for private soldiers, they would have no power of summary punishment, and discipline would depend, as at present, upon the team spirit of all ranks.

The London Blitz

Boroughs such as Southwark, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe were situated in some of the most bombed areas of the capital. Men of the Home Guard played a vital role in many of the incidents. They helped to evacuate patients and staff when Guys Hospital was bombed. Another problem was of strength. Because of the bombing a number of firms were dispersed to other areas and the loss to one battalion was approximately a third of its numbers. Nevertheless guards were mounted each night and on call at each sub-divisional police station. Other key points such as power stations, telephone exchanges and reservoirs were also guarded daily.

On one occasion General McNamara (GOC London District) accompanied by the Commanding Officer inspected the guard at a certain telephone exchange. The guard was armed only with batons. They were all in civilian clothes, without a steel helmet or even a shotgun between them. Bombs were falling in all directions as General McNamara inspected them. Showing his interest in the men, he asked them what they did in private life. It transpired that one was an Admiral, another a General, a third a Royal Academician, a fourth was a High Court Judge, the fifth and sixth were respectively a distinguished sculptor and a Government gas expert.

'It's a noisy night to-night', said the General.

'Yes, sir' replied the Sergeant of the Guard, 'but not as bad as the other evening'.

'Oh what happened?'

'That was the night the bomb fell in the Exchange itself and wrecked the whole thing'.

'Do you mean to say it is out of action?'

'Yes sir for six months'.
That particular guard was withdrawn next morning!!

Guarding Crashed Aircraft

The Home Guard was called out on numerous occasions to guard enemy aircraft which had been shot down. (This also applied of course to RAF aircraft as well). Probably the most publicised episode was the aircraft flown by Hitler's Deputy Rudolf Hess.

Hess piloting a Me.109 from South Germany in an attempt to land at Dungavel, Lanarkshire, the seat of the Duke of Hamilton, baled out over Eaglesham House, Renfrewshire. The plane, left without a pilot, crashed in a field about a quarter of a mile distant from the spot where Hess landed on the fringe of Eaglesham Moor.

The landing took place within the area of the 3rd Renfrewshire Battalion Home Guard, which covered over fifty square miles of moorland and agricultural land. As a result of direct communication, information was received at Battalion HQ a few minutes after Hess had baled out. The information was immediately communicated to the outpost by the direct line. The visiting Orderly Officer, 2nd Lieutenant J F Cameron set off at once with several of the outpost picquet to the area. They visited the crashed plane where he met another officer, Lieutenant John Clark of the same Company. They proceeded together to round up the pilot Hess and came upon him within the farmhouse near where he had landed.

Hess was searched, and articles, including a map of his route, were removed from his clothing. He was dressed in a flying suit and his uniform underneath was immaculate. He wore the badges of rank of a Captain in the Air Force, and gave his name as Alfred Horne (Hauptmann). He was recognised as Hess by Captain Donald of the Observer Corps and was challenged regarding his name, but denied he was Hess. He was subsequently removed to a Military Hospital, as he had received a slight injury on landing. Later a broadcast on the BBC was made by the officers concerned in the capture, for Overseas Radio.

There were several instances of German aircraft crashing and the crew attempting to destroy the plane, fortunately vigilant members of the Home Guard prevented this from happening. The planes were then guarded by the Home Guard until removed by the RAF.

The Upper Thames Patrol

It is not generally known that the Home Guard formed a unit which operated from Lechlade to Teddington, a distance of 125 miles. Patriotic owners of motor launches came forward and loaned their craft and a large number of owners also joined the Home Guard.

They maintained a close link with the military and police units on the River Thames. Some members were also part of the 'Small Boats Patrol' – used to navigate small

craft from one point to another. A number from this unit were decorated for their work.

Mobile Canteen

The people of Guelph and Wellington County, Ontario presented a mobile canteen to the Surrey Home Guard. It was issued to the 53rd Battalion, and was used to maximum effect until the Home Guard stood down and it was then handed over to the cadet forces in Surrey.



OC 53rd Surreys hands the canteen over to the Chairman of Surrey Territorial Army and Airforce Association

Administration

Home Guard Battalions were administered by the Territorial Army and Air Force Associations for their county.

From the moment the first enrolment forms were completed, the administrative machine had to be set in motion and kept running smoothly. Army forms, returns, reports, all the accepted formulae of Army administration fell to the Home Guard.

Firstly, the enrolment form. Before the applicant was finally enrolled his form was sent to the police for his district to ensure that there were no security reasons to prevent his enlistment. This matter settled, the enlistment was notified in Part II orders and his career as a Home Guard commenced.

He was then posted to a Platoon and issued with the necessary articles of clothing and, later on, arms and ammunition, all of which had to be recorded. In effect this meant an individual ledger entry for every man. When he was finally discharged the balance would be struck by return of the articles. Some were lost or worn by other than fair wear and tear. These had to be written off charge. In the Home Guard the turnover in personnel was tremendous; for example some 5,000 men served in the 53rd Surreys. The strength on Stand Down was about 1,500 so no fewer than 3,500 had been discharged. All must appear in Part II orders, all their kits and equipment accounts balanced, often matters of great difficulty where men were moving around.

Had the Home Guard been mustered for full-time service the greatest problem, a real 'headache' in fact, would have been a financial or rather administrative one connected with compensation which would have become

admissible for loss of earnings. A battalion with 2,000 men in the field would have created great difficulty.

The compensation was based on the earnings of a labourer at a daily rate with a weekly maximum of £3 18s 6d but it was only authorised where the recipient could prove loss by certificate from his employers. Another complication was deduction for feeding. Then a sum of 6d or so daily would be authorised for the purchase of unrationed goods.

Altogether it was about as complicated as the caution of the Treasury could make it and, having to be put into effect during active operations, was hopelessly impracticable. The man was entitled to claim his payment daily and was expected to make it over for the support of his family. That undoubtedly was one side of Home Guard organisation which could have broken down under the heavy burden of the complications connected with it.

Accountants are notorious for a slavish adherence to regulations as the following incident will show. An officer, taking a party to the Ranges at Bisley, was provided with a railway warrant for the journey from Hampton Court to Surbiton where a special train would pick them up. The booking clerk issued a voucher for one First Class ticket and 150 Thirds. One month later the Battalion was confronted with a demand from the auditor for a refund of two and a half old pence because Home Guard Officers were not allowed First Class travel. Two and a half pence was expended on a stamp to reply:

- (1) that there was no First Class service between these stations.
- (2) that no First Class ticket had been asked for.
- (3) the Officer had a season ticket anyway.

The Territorial Association's accountants returned to the attack. A first-class ticket had been charged for and as the Army vote for the Home Guard did not admit of first-class travel it would be necessary for the Battalion to send along the two and a half pence.

The argument might have gone on forever but the Battalion cut it short, bought a two and a half pence stamp from the Imprest account (provided by the Territorial Army Association) and another one to post it to them – 10d in stamps and four letters apart from the two and a half pence stamp in payment of the account – and all because a railway clerk failed to realise that Home Guard Officers did not travel first-class.

Honours and Awards

It was at an Investiture on March 26th 1941 that, for the first time, members of the Home Guard receiving medals were announced by their ranks. Thus a Section Leader Joseph Topham, Sub-Section Leader John Beattie and Volunteer William Saragine made history when they received their British Empire Medals. Also on that day

Lord Croft announced that the cost of the Home Guard at its inception had been less than half a day of the war. Nevertheless its existence had enabled the War Office to send vital reinforcements to General Wavell which smashed the Italian armies in Africa.

The 33rd Bn (Croydon) Borough had a number of awards, including the George Cross to Captain R T Harris of C Company in connection with bomb disposal work. The following of the unit were also decorated:

Sgt A H Marshall	:	George Medal
Pte R H C Cocksedge	:	George Medal
Pte F W Yates	:	George Medal
Pte A W Curtis	:	George Medal
Pte E Adams	:	British Empire Medal
Pte H Gibbs	:	British Empire Medal
Pte H B Wetjen	:	British Empire Medal
Lt J E Dane	:	Commendation
Sgt W C Cox	:	Commendation
Pte T Newall	:	Commendation

A Military Medal was awarded to a member of the London Home Guard. In addition to those mentioned above a large number of other awards were made to the force throughout its period of active service including Certificates for Gallant Conduct and Meritorious Service.

Casualties

The London District and parts of the Surrey Home Guard had to face far greater risks over a period of four and a half years than very large numbers of the regular forces, who were stationed at places where boredom was their greatest enemy.

The 55th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment Home Guard, whose Headquarters were at Cheam, sustained casualties during the war. Four men were killed and twenty very seriously wounded when their Headquarters was demolished by a flying bomb following D Day in 1944.

Later Years

It was in December 1942 when a Tyneside battery shot down the first enemy bomber credited officially to the Home Guard. Simultaneously with this achievement the training of Home Guards on 3.7 inch guns was started. This ambitious scheme was immediately successful. The men were drawn only from General Service Battalions. A further step had been planned by AA Command; this was the training of Home Guards on the Bofors guns. From June 1942 several thousand Home Guard anti-aircraft gunners enrolled every month, and numbers of practice camps where live ammunition could be fired

President's Reception
May 2010



Annual Church Service
June 2010



Colonel Patrick Crowley accepts a donation from 2nd of Foot members for PWRR Benevolence Funds



Some of the happy guests



The Association President escorts the Lord Lieutenant from the Cathedral after the service



Refreshments in the refectory after the service

5 Queen's OMA Dinner at Farnham



The East Surrey Regiment Reunion at Clapham Junction



over the weekend provided. London Ack-Ack units were not destined to fire at enemy aircraft until January 17th 1943. But though it was practically certain that the Home Guard in a northern area of London got a 'kill' this could not be allowed for technical reasons.

Against airborne invasion the Home Guard Ack-Ack batteries were found to be absolutely adequate. If the Germans had succeeded in landing tanks in this country, the sub-artillery supplied to the Home Guard would have been equally effective.

There was only one limitation to the Home Guard and that was their inability to use important team weapons. It was impossible, for example, for the Home Guard to man tanks because of the inevitable irregularity of their attendances on parade. An individual tank cannot operate as a unit. Tank crews have to practise with one another, a troop being the smallest unit (hence the tactical absurdity of the original LDV armoured cars, which had no supporting fire and were therefore liable to be massacred).

It was this irregularity of attendance on parade which prevented the Home Guard from being truly mobile. They could not possibly be trained to a high enough standard in the time available from the factory and the plough. This meant that the role of the Home Guard had to be local defence, where team work is simple and individual units could concentrate on their own battle.



The winter training scheme for 1942-1943 was based on the cheerful knowledge that the time would come when our Field Army could turn from its defensive role to an offensive one overseas. This meant that while the chances of invasion were less than in the past, the Home Guard assumed greater responsibilities in protecting the country against seaborne or airborne raids. In raising their efficiency to the highest possible standard, therefore, the Home Guard was contributing to the strength of the general offensive by releasing further Regular troops; to this extent the scale of the offensive in Europe depended largely upon the fighting efficiency of the Home Guard.

So stringent had been the weeding out of the elderly and the unfit that the average age of the Home Guard in 1943 was under thirty. No country in the world could have provided so many men able to maintain so much enthusiasm over so long a period of so much relative inaction.

The arming of the Home Guard in 1944 was fantastic compared to that of May 1940. Including instructional types, the individual Home Guard had to know eighteen different grenades. Apart from grenades, the weapons issued to the Home Guard included the Sten, the Thompson sub-machine carbine, the Northover, the Spigot Mortar, the EY rifle, the Lewis gun and various other kinds of machine-gun. They were so well equipped that one of the original conceptions of their role – to fight as partisans in the event of invasion – was discounted.

Stand Down

The Home Guard was 'stood down' in September 1944. Final parades were held in towns from September to December. Accounting for all the equipment went on into 1945.



Task completed, marching off parade December 1944

A Postscript to the Home Guard

An interesting parade took place at the Barracks, Kingston-upon-Thames on 24th March 1947, arranged by Lieutenant Colonel G W Kennedy DSO, OBE, MC when a final donation of £175 from the Hinchley Wood Home Guard was presented to the Chairman of the Fund, Brigadier GRP Roupell VC who made suitable response. There were fourteen ex-members of the 53rd (Surrey) Battalion Home Guard on parade.

The 53rd Battalion raised the magnificent total of £4,750 during the war for the Prisoner of War Fund. Another interesting personality attending the parade was Mr James who raised nearly £100 in sixpences during the war in his spare time by going round with a collecting box.

Home Guard Battalions in Surrey

1st Surrey Battalion raised in May 1940, based at Camberley & Farnham.

2nd Surrey Battalion raised summer 1940,

3rd Surrey Battalion raised Autumn 1940, based at Chobham. Farnham companies to another battalion.

4th Surrey Battalion raised in May 1940, based at Guildford. In close liaison with the ITC at Stoughton Barracks.

5th Surrey Battalion based at Godalming, Effingham, Shere, Cranleigh and Chiddingfold.

11th Surrey Battalion raised in 1942, based at Woking and Chobham.

12th Surrey Battalion raised in 1941, based at Southern Railway Unit with HQ at Woking. Covered over 100 stations of The Southern Railway.

23rd Surrey Battalion raised in June 1940, based at Croydon.

33rd Surrey Battalion raised in June 1940, based at Croydon. Personnel from the staff of Croydon Corporation.

51st Surrey Battalion raised in June 1940, based at Malden. Commando Company formed in April 1941. Medical Section formed in Summer 1941.

53rd Surrey Battalion raised in 1940, at Wimbledon with sub-units at The Dittons, East Molesley and Weston Green.

56th Surrey Battalion raised in May 1940, based at Epsom and Banstead. Amalgamated with Ewell in July 1940.

62nd Surrey Battalion raised in July 1940, based in Norbury.

63rd Surrey Battalion raised in 1940, based in Richmond.

64th Surrey Battalion raised in May 1944, based in Kingston. Formed from personnel transferred from 53rd Surrey (Molesley) Bn.

In addition, the following Home Guard battalions of which there are no records were also affiliated to The Queen's and Surreys; 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 32nd and 60th.

References:

Soldiers of the King – Lt Col R A Pepperall MC

The Home Guard of Britain – C Graves

Regimental Histories

Queen's Royal Surreys Web-site

In 1952 at the time of the civil defense movement, a consequence of the threat of nuclear war, the Home Guard was resurrected. In 1955 it was placed on a reserve basis and subsequently disbanded. Both periods of Home Guard service are commemorated in Memorial Windows in the Regimental Chapel at Guildford Cathedral.



Home Guards of the 18th Century

(From 'The Times' in 1940)

Early in the 18th Century, there was a real fear of an invasion from France. Men of all classes and types – young and old, rich and poor, pressed eagerly into the ranks of the volunteer army. Again in 1940 men answered the call for Volunteers (later the Home Guard) to play their part in defending their Country.

The East India Company, whose fleets and Empire-building activities brought so much trade and romance to the Port of London, was quickly associated with the national movement. Patriotic motives apart, the directors could not contemplate with equanimity the possibility of London being denuded of soldiers, in the event of invasion, and their warehouses left unprotected.

On August 24th 1796, the Court approved a plan for raising two regiments of volunteers, each to consist of 500 ranks and file, 20 drummers, 30 sergeants and about 35 superior officers. The field officers were to be selected from the ranks of the directors; the commissioned officers from the ranks of the East India House staff; and the non-commissioned officers and privates from the labourers and others employed in the Company's warehouses. The force was to be armed by the Government and clothed by the Company. A handsome uniform was provided for the officers, consisting of a scarlet coat, turned up (trimmed) with blue, buff waistcoat and breeches. A large busby ornamented with a plume completed the outfit.

It is recorded in 'The Times' for August 16th 1802, that "Yesterday the Third Regiment of the Royal East India Volunteers practised firing with ball at Highgate. A figure of Bonaparte, admirably painted by Captain Barnard, was placed opposite to the Grenadier Company, and hardly a part of the hero escaped without 'a palpable hit'."

According to Hughson ('Walks through London, 1817') the headquarters of the Royal East India Volunteers were the East India Company's warehouses in New Street, Bishopsgate.

Just 100 years later these warehouses were acquired by the St Katherine Docks Company and formed part of the Port of London Authority's extensive Uptown warehousing accommodation.



A picture by Bryan Fosten of the 1796 Home Guard

□ □ □

Thanks are due again to
Major J L A Fowler TD
for generously providing the paper for
the Newsletter

"Fighting for Every Mountain" - The Surreys in Tunisia and Italy

(by Bryn Evans)

Previous articles taken from my book, "Fighting for Every Mountain", have followed the two battalions of the East Surrey Regiment in the Tunisian and Italian campaigns of World War Two. In the autumn of 1944 they faced up to the Allies' climactic challenge, when they were poised to assault the Gothic Line in the Tuscan Apennines of northern Italy. Hitler saw Italy's northern Apennines and the Gothic Line, which was a 200 mile chain of steel and concrete defences, as the final barrier to the Allied armies.

It was the final destiny for both sides in the Italian campaign.

On the northern side of the Gothic Line lay the dreaded River Po valley, a maze of canals and tributary rivers criss-crossing the marshy Lombardy Plain. The 1st and 1/6th Surreys, with their comrades in 5th and 8th Armies, were confronting their greatest battle, their recurring nightmare. To many it appeared impossible to break through first the Gothic Line, then fight their way across the River Po and its valley, before climbing again over the Alps to take Vienna.

"Fighting for Every Mountain" tells how the two Surrey battalions in the Second World War became some of the British Army's finest troops in mountain warfare. The story is told through the voices of some of the men who were there, such as Jack Chaffer, Major Frank Oram, Harry Skilton, Frank Weston, Major Toby Taylor, Frank Gaige, and Lieutenant Colonel John Woodhouse.

The personal accounts of these veterans and others provide a wealth of new material, including the memoirs of the late John Woodhouse, who as a young Lieutenant led the Surreys' Battle Patrol through the Tunisia, Sicily and Italy campaigns. Post-war John Woodhouse became Lieutenant Colonel and a co-founder, with the more famous Lieutenant Colonel David Stirling, of the British SAS. In The Times Obituary of 2008 for John Woodhouse, David Stirling was quoted as saying, 'John Woodhouse...created the modern SAS.'

For most of the East Surreys the only mountains they had ever seen had been at the cinema or in a school geography book. Many lied about their age in order to enlist. Then fate sent them into nearly three years of mountain fighting, where the uphill assaults, rain, ice and snow, competed with the shells and bullets to impose their misery, and strike down their victims.

How did the inexperienced troops of the East Surrey Regiment, many still just teenage boys, become revered exponents of mountain warfare? What turned young recruits, drawn largely from suburban London and Surrey towns, into specialists in mountain fighting?

The veterans' stories take the reader on a Mediterranean odyssey, to live and die with the Surreys, through the winter rain and mud of Tunisia's Atlas mountains, the sulphur fumes of Sicily's Mount Etna, the swollen rivers of Italy's Abruzzo, the icy killing grounds of Monte Cassino, the four months of trench-warfare at Anzio, and a third winter of snow and ice in the Tuscan Apennines up against the Gothic Line. Time and again, the Surreys are called upon to assault an enemy held peak, to fight their way up towards the sky. Then as if a storm finally bursts, the Surreys come down from the mountains to surge into the dreaded final battle, in the flooded rivers and canals of the River Po valley, and the Argenta Gap.

The theme of 'Fighting for Every Mountain' shows how even a single battalion must succeed for battles to be won, and grand strategies to end in victory. At the same time the book sets the story against a backdrop of some of the important strategic and political issues of the war, and visits to the notable battlegrounds, localities and cities. Above all this is a story of real people. Some of them are still with us to tell it as it really was, and often to contradict the official versions.

'Fighting for Every Mountain' is currently in the hands of publishers, and it is anticipated it will be released in mid-2011. It is not too late for further contributions from veterans and their families, which will be warmly welcomed.

Contact details: 8 Nicholson Street, Wollstonecraft, Sydney NSW 2065, Australia

Tel: 612 9438 1939

Email: bryn.evans@ozemail.com.au

□ □ □

The Queen's Royal Regiment Returns to France

(by C. Reilly and K. Hawkins: Queen's Royal Regiment Living History Group)

On May 20th, 1940, three battalions of the Queen's Royal Regiment stood face to face with Heinz Guderian's 7th Panzer Division. After a brief skirmish, using only rifles and Bren guns against tanks, the Queen's were swept aside and became another paragraph in what was to become Operation Dynamo- the Dunkirk evacuation. Seventy years later the inhabitants of Bellancourt in Northern France were to see the Paschal Lamb on their doorsteps once more.

In summer 2009, the Queen's Royal Regiment Living History Group were contacted by Mr Michael Smith on behalf of the Mayor and villagers of Bellancourt, a small village in the Picardy region, east of Abbeville. He told us that there are four British soldiers buried in their tiny local cemetery; two were members of the 2/5th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment who were killed in May 1940. Michael invited us to attend a service at the graveside

on Remembrance Day that November. Due to work commitments only two of us were able to attend, and, with great pride and sadness, paid tribute to the fallen.

The welcome we received from the Mayor, Paul Gombart, and the villagers was magnificent; we were treated like kings which we found truly humbling. As an act of gratitude for the care these people had shown to the fallen British soldiers, and for the overwhelming welcome they had shown us, we told them that it would be an honour for our group to return to Bellancourt and mount a display for the children of the village school and to attend the Service of Thanksgiving on May 8th 2010, to which they readily agreed.

So, on Thursday, 6th May, we arrived in Bellancourt to set up a small camp and to prepare ourselves for the arrival of the school children the following day. Friday morning dawned, crisp and bright; after our usual morning routine and first parade, we made sure the camp was prepared and all displays were ready.



We didn't have long to wait before some very excited children arrived, accompanied by their teachers with our local interpreter, Michael Smith at their head. The day passed very quickly for us; the children asked questions, using a surprising amount of English when they could. They were taught about the weapons, food and equipment of the time. A number of us found the time to be interviewed by the local TV network and made a brief appearance on the evening news. The children left late in the afternoon, making way for their parents who seemed to take a great delight in the same thing- the reputation of tinned corned beef had most definitely preceded us!

Saturday 8th May began with Mass in the village church, followed by a brief ceremony by the side of the memorial to the civilian dead in the local cemetery.

The main event, for us, was the graveside ceremony for the fallen Queensmen. A wreath, provided by the Regimental Association, was laid, as was a bouquet of cornflowers (which serve the French as poppies do us) by M. Gombart, the Mayor.



The ceremony was brief and to the point, but no less moving for it.

We then marched back into Bellancourt, accompanied by two pipers, where another ceremony was carried out at the War Memorial. This was a high level affair, attended by no less than the Mayor of Abbeville, the local MP, the local Chief of Police and Fire Brigade. Again, a wreath was laid. M. Gombart read out the names of the fallen, as is French custom, including those of the Queen's. After a final Present Arms, we marched off back to our camp.

After the parade we assembled in the village hall for the Vin d'Honneur, which was a brief champagne reception accompanied by speeches. We were able to mingle freely with the villagers; everyone wanted to shake our hands and did their best to say a few words of English. The warmth of their welcome had to be felt to be believed. At 13.00hrs, a beaming Paul Gombart announced it was time for lunch; it was to consist of five courses, with accompanying wines and, yes, the French do know their wines!

Toasts were proposed and responded to in a most convivial atmosphere, our members acquitting themselves well.

The biggest surprise was the arrival of M. Pelletier, 90 years old, and the most decorated member of the French Resistance still living. He had seen the local news report and remembered the Regiment from 1940. He and his wife had made their own way to Bellancourt from Pont Remy in order to meet us; he was surprisingly sprightly for a man of his years and immensely likeable; in a fit of spontaneity we gave him a regimental cap badge, which he received with great emotion.

Lunch wound down just after 18.00hrs which, after an extended bout of hand-shaking as the villagers left, allowed the troops to stand down. The evening conversation centred around the events of the day, the warmth of the people of Bellancourt, and the possibility of returning in November. Would we return? The answer was a resounding "Yes!"

Golf Society

Queens Royal Surrey Regiment G.S. versus Royal Hampshire Regiment G.S.

The fourth annual meeting between the Regimental Golf Society and the Royal Hampshire Regiment G.S. took place in windy and wet 'infantry' weather at High Post Golf Club near Amesbury on 14th September 2010. To allow those coming from a distance to enjoy a later start and avoid the worst of the traffic the match took place in the afternoon after a very enjoyable lunch hosted this year by the Royal Hampshires.

The competition, which was closely fought, resulted in a win for the Regimental Golf Society with two matches won, one lost and one halved. Particularly noteworthy was the valiant fight back by David Dickins and Peter Dorey who came from four down with five to play to level their match on the last green.

With the society winning back the silver salver the series, which replaced the annual match against the Royal Marines G.S. now stands at two matches all.



The Captain at the Society's Autumn Meeting at Woking with the Salver regained from The Royal Hampshires

The individual results were:

Michael Power & Christopher Surtees vs Gregory Reed & Hugh Keating - lost 2/1

David Dickins & Peter Dorey vs Martin Oldacre & Peter Hughes - all square

Robert Acworth & Foster Herd vs Hastings Neville & Lionel French - won 2/1

Colin Howard & Christopher Allanson vs Richard Brasher & Martin Gairdner - won 7/6

Autumn Meeting

The Autumn Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday 6th October at Woking Golf Club. Following very heavy rain the course was closed until noon so the order of proceedings for the day was reversed with an excellent lunch being enjoyed before rather than after play. In the event the course had recovered extremely well from the deluge and the afternoon golf was blessed with fine weather.

The results were:

The Autumn Bowl
John Davidson Net 73

The Glasgow Grey's Cup
Peter Swanson Net 77

The Petrie Plate (Aggregate score from the Spring and Autumn Meetings)

John Davidson Net 72 + 73 = 145

The Heales Memorial Trophy
Bob Acworth 30 Points

The Veterans' Halo
John Davidson 40 Points



Bob Acworth receives the Heales Memorial Trophy

Following the success of the revised format for the day, it is intended that as an experiment for 2011 at both the Spring and Autumn meetings play will be in the afternoon and be preceded by lunch.

5th Queen's Old Members Association

(by Ian Chatfield)

5th Queen's OMA had a busy year starting with the reunion dinner in the Farnham drill hall where 160 veterans sat down to a nice four course meal. This was followed in June by the Veterans Flag Raising day in Guildford: any of our local members are invited to this nice event and to the small reception given by the Mayor afterwards.

Also in June we supported the Regimental Association's annual church service at Guildford Cathedral, and in October we held the annual Alamein Lunch at the Cathedral Refectory. Once again it was a good turnout with Doug and Margaret Mitchell sitting with Syd and Margaret Bowbrick; both of these men seventy years ago had escaped through Dunkirk. Sitting on the next table were Syd and Barbara Whyte with Eric and May Reeves; these gentlemen were not as lucky as they did not see home for over five years. Also on the same table were Jim and Pat Jeffery and Stan and Flo Blay; these two veterans saw a different Italy to the one I know. We also had a table of Malayan veterans and a good mix of later territorials.

As I write, the final arrangements have been made for the Remembrance service in Holy Trinity and the parade through Guildford which is normally well attended as is the buffet we lay on at the Royal Oak after the parade for the members and their families.

Sadly I must report the passing of two of our most active members Noel Matthews and Ron Hill. Both saw service on the BEF in 1940, North Africa, Italy and France and Germany and will be sadly missed by all who knew them. (Obituaries Elsewhere).

Kent Branch Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Association

(by Ron Harper)

Membership has stayed steady throughout the year being around 125 members. As usual only a small nucleus of around twenty plus wives and partners regularly attend our bi monthly meetings in the Garrison Sergeants Mess Shornecliffe. Rather more attend our summer Bar-B-Q. Food was provided by the Sergeants Mess and a very good spread was laid on; the bar was open with very reasonably priced drinks and the weather was kind to us so a very good afternoon was had by all.

We had a good turnout of our members at the Association Church service at Guildford Cathedral and I am trying to arrange for an even better turnout for next year to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Queen's first parade on Putney Heath. We are now in the process of arranging our Christmas Dinner, usually a well attended occasion.

East Surrey Regimental Reunion

(by John Broom)

This year's reunion was held at the St. John's Drill Hall, Clapham Junction on 2nd October with about 120 attending. Sadly the venue is being sold so it will not be available next year, but there was great enthusiasm for continuing with this popular event and we have already started looking at potential venues which could be suitable. June and Stewart Daniels who had looked after us for many years had retired last year but Dawn Hayward-Smith, with help from her family, did us proud this year in difficult circumstances. Our President Colonel John Francis was unable to be with us this year due to illness so Colonel Derek Bishop kindly stood in and gave us an update on the Association and the Regiment.

The Reunion is helped by a grant from the Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charity and by donations from individual members as well as the raffle run at the Reunion.

o o o

Butch Steggall writes:

I have organised reunions for East Surrey Regiment National Servicemen in April and September in Little Bookham, Surrey at the Windsor Castle Pub. We would welcome any former East Surreys who might wish to attend on future occasions.



April 2010

For details contact: 01424753352.

o o o

Regimental Anniversaries

During 2011 the Regimental Association will mark the 350th anniversary of the first muster on Putney Heath. Since 1661 Regimental Anniversaries have been celebrated on a number of occasions and details from and photographs of some such events can be found in the regimental archives. One such account was written by Lieutenant Colonel J H S Burgess OBE, and entitled...

Could this have been the first flight of the Regimental Colours of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regt?

During 1950-1952, I served with the 1st Bn of the Middlesex Regiment in Korea and Hong Kong, as one of the Platoon Commanders with the Queen's and East Surrey Company (C Coy) attached to 1 Middlesex for the Korean War (4th Rifle Company). In early 1952 I returned to the UK for leave prior to joining 1 Surreys, who at that time were in Tripoli.

1952 being the 250th Anniversary of the Regiment, celebrations were being planned to mark the occasion. At this time the Regimental Colours of the 1st Bn were held at the Depot at Kingston, and a request had been made by the Commanding Officer for them to be sent to Tripoli in time for the 250th formation parade.

After my leave I reported to the Regimental Depot at Kingston, to await my posting to the 1st Bn. At very short notice I was found a berth on a Troopship (Empire Pride) leaving Liverpool for Port Said on 17 June 1952, and it was to be my responsibility to take the Regimental Colours to Tripoli. At Port Said it was planned that I

would trans-ship to another Troopship from Hong Kong en route to the UK via Tripoli.

The Regimental Colours were contained in a long wooden black box (long enough to hold the pikes, and wide enough to also contain the waterproof covers over the Colours). All went well with the journey until I reached Port Said, where I disembarked with my own baggage and one long black box. I explained to the Movements Staff at Port Said that I was en route to Tripoli with the Regimental Colours of my Regiment, and that the Colours were required by the 250th Anniversary Parade at the end of June.

The Movement Staff denied all knowledge of any arrangement for me to embark with my Colours on a Troopship bound for Tripoli. I was informed that I would have to fly from RAF FAYID to Tripoli, but the box containing the Colours was too big and too long for transportation by Passenger Aircraft, so it would have to be sent by sea as freight. My protests were ignored, and I was ordered to hand over the Regimental Colours to 'Q' Movements Staff at Port Said.

As I did not have much faith in the Movements Staff, I opened the box at an appropriate time, and surreptitiously removed the Colours from their Pikes, folded them neatly and put them inside my suitcase. I replaced the Pikes, and the waterproof cases that normally covered the Colours in position on the Pikes, and obtained from a 'Q' Movements Officer a signature for the "Regimental Colours of the East Surrey Regiment".

I then proceeded as ordered to the transit camp at FAYID in the Canal Zone to await a flight to Tripoli. At that time there was considerable unrest in the Canal Zone, and a high rate of theft from the transit camp by local Egyptians; I therefore spent a number of anxious days in the transit camp sitting on my suitcase!

Eventually I obtained a flight and I delivered the Colours (less Pikes) to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in time for their Anniversary Parade on the 5th July 1952. The Pikes eventually arrived by sea in Tripoli the day before the parade on 4th July.

The Official History of the Regiment records that a Drumhead Service was held on the Square of GIALO Barracks, Tripoli on 5th July 1952 to "mark the two hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the Formation of the Regiment. The silver drums were piled on the Square and the Colours, which had been flown out for the occasion were carried on the Parade".

The truth behind "flown out for the occasion" is recorded above. What is not recorded is that they arrived in the suitcase of Lt John Burgess, and that it was thought to have been the first occasion that they were transported by air, all previous occasions being by sea, road or rail.

o o o

Regimental Deaths

Batterson – On 4th June 2010 Kenneth John Batterson.

Bishop – In late August 2010 Alan Frederick Bishop.

Botrill – On 21st May 2010 Jack W Botrill who served with The Queen's Royal Regiment 1938-1944.

Boundary – On 27th May 2010 aged 90 years, Albert A Boundary.

Dodd – On 15th May 2010 aged 92 years, Lionel Cyril H Dodd. A member of 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA, he served with the Regiment from 1939 until commissioned into the Durham Light Infantry.

Dunipace – On 22nd August 2010 aged 75 years William A Dunipace who was a national serviceman with 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment 1953-55, serving in Germany and Malaya.

Edmonds – On 19th February 2008, Lance Corporal John William Edmonds. He initially joined 70th (Young Soldiers) Bn The East Surrey Regiment, going on to serve with 2/th Bn The East Surrey Regiment before transferring to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. His service prior to discharge in February 1946 included UK, India and Burma.

Edwards - In May 2010, aged 92 years, Corporal Ernest William Edwards. He served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from January 1939 until April 1947; he was captured at Dunkirk in 1940 and was held as a prisoner of war in Poland and in Germany.

Faulkner – On 6th July 2010 Michael Faulkner who served with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment 1960-66 and with 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment 1967-70.

Gibson – On 25th May 2010 Jeffrey E Gibson who served with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and The Queen's Regiment 1963-69.

Glade – On 22nd October 2010 aged 89 years, WO1 Edwin Colin Glade. He enlisted into 4th Bn The Devonshire Regiment in April 1939 and subsequently served with the 9th Bn. He transferred to 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and went on to serve with the Corps of Military Police (India), and then with the Royal Corps of Military Police from June 1946. His service prior to discharge in August 1948 included UK, Iraq, India, Burma and Germany.

Haines – On 26th August 2010 aged 79 years John Haines. His service with The East Surrey Regiment and the Buffs included Greece, Somalia, Sudan and Egypt.

Heaton - On 14th June 2010 John G Heaton who served with 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during WWII.

Hill – On 23rd September 2010 Ronald William Elliott Hill MBE. Ron Hill served with the 1/5th (V) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment throughout WW2, including with the BEF in 1940 when he left England as a Lance Corporal and returned as a Colour Sergeant. He went on



Keith Dinnage writes:

I would like to hear from any one who served with my father (William Arthur Dinnage) between 1939 & 1944. W A Dinnage enlisted into 5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment at Kingston on 15th June 1939 and was discharged at Ashford on 12th April 1944. I believe his service included Dunkirk, El Alamein and Salerno.

Contacts details:

17 The Maltings, Liphook, Hants GU30 7DG

Telephone No: 01428 723228

Email Address: dinnage@liphook.u-net.com



to serve in North Africa and Italy. He then came home with the 7th Armoured Brigade in early 1944 for the D Day invasion where the battalion landed just after the initial landings but then fought through to Hamburg and then went on to Berlin for the victory parades. After the war Ron worked for Guildford Borough Council and for his outstanding contribution to NALGO was awarded the MBE. Ron was also a very knowledgeable local historian and never stopped working for his community.

Kirby – On 3rd July 2010 John Kirby who served with The East Surrey Regiment.

Mansell – On 25th June 2010 Sydney H Mansell who served in The East Surrey Regiment 1943-46.

Matthews – During the spring of 2010 aged 90 years, Lance Corporal Noel Frank Matthews. He enlisted into 1/5th Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment in 1938. His service prior to discharge in May 1946 included France 1940, North Africa, Italy, and France and Germany following D Day.

Melrose – On 17th May 2010 D C Melrose who served with The Queen’s Royal Regiment.

Morris – On 25th October 2010 Corporal Bob Morris who joined The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment in March 1960 and went on to serve with The Queen’s Regiment after amalgamation. Before leaving the Army in 1972 his service included Aden, Hong Kong, Munster, Canada and Lingfield.

Osborne – On 13th August 2010 aged 86 years Major Keith Osborne. Originally granted an emergency commission in the Royal Sussex in 1944, Keith served with 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment 1946-1949. He retired from the Army in 1978 and was an RO2 in MoD for several years afterwards.

Peters – On 3rd October 2010 Corporal Harold Frank Peters. Frank Peters served with 4th Bn The Essex Regiment in Greece before transferring to The East Surrey Regiment with which he served during the campaigns in Italy. After the war he left the army but subsequently served with the 6th (Territorial) Bn The East Surrey Regiment. With amalgamations in the early 1960s that unit became the 4th Bn The Queen’s Royal Surrey Regiment and he served with it. He was for a number of years the driver for the battalion’s commanding officer.

Philpott - On Friday 29th October 2010, Michael Philpott who served with the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment between 1950-1954, including in Libya and Egypt.

Reason – On 19th July 2010 Michael Reason whose service with the Regiment included Aden and Hong Kong during the 1960s.

Rushworth – On 9th December 2009 Corporal Brian David Rushworth who served with The Queen’s Royal Regiment 1956-58.

Schaepli – In May 2010, Lieutenant Colonel Robin Schaepli. Robin Schaepli joined The Queen’s Royal Regiment from the Essex Regiment on an Emergency Commission in May 1941. From February 1942 until August 1945 he served with 11th Sikh Regiment in India and Burma; he was Mentioned in Despatches. In April 1953 he was commissioned into the Royal Army Education Corps. His subsequent service included educational appointments with the West African Frontier Force 1957-59 and in Malaya 1962-65. His final appointment before retiring in 1973 was as Commandant No 2 Resettlement Centre, Aldershot. He finally retired from teaching in 1985. He was the author of “Emergency Sahib- of Queen’s, Sikhs and the Dagger Division” which was published in 1992.

Scott – On 6th April 2010 Thomas Scott who served with The Queen’s Royal Regiment 1945-48.

Sharpe - On 22nd May 2010 Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Le Mare Sharpe LVO OBE who was Director of Music of the Coldstream Guards 1963-74 and of the Royal Military School of Music 1974-78.

Shepherd – On 14th February 2010 Richard Shepherd who served with 1st Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment.

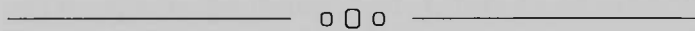
Snelling – On 29th August 2010 aged 96 years, R J (Reg) Snelling. Having served with 1st Bn the Royal West Kent Regiment in N Africa he joined 2/7th Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment, serving with it from September 1943 to January 1946, including with the Intelligence Section during the campaign in Italy.

Wayland – In April 2010 Lance Corporal Ronald Wayland who enlisted into 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in May 1947 and whose service included Greece.

Weston – On 16th September 2010, aged 89 years Corporal Guy Ronald Oliver Weston. He enlisted in 1939, aged 18 years, and joined The East Surrey Regiment. He deployed with 1/6th Battalion to the continent and was evacuated at Dunkirk. Having suffered a back injury on operations he was eventually discharged in September 1945.

He initially failed the entry medical for the Police Force due to his back injury; however he joined the Metropolitan Police Special Constabulary in 1951 and served until he retired in 1980. He rose through the ranks to become Commandant of ‘Z’ Division.

With – On 18th March 2010 aged 89 years Captain Patrick With who served with 1st Bn The Queen’s Royal Regiment during WW2, including on NW Frontier, and in India and Burma (including the Arakan and Kohima).



Regimental Family

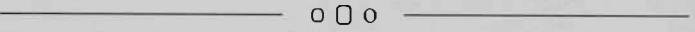
Roupell - On May 28th 2010 aged 98 Rachel Roupell, widow of Brigadier G.R.P. Roupell, V.C.

Col Toby Sewell writes:

Mrs Rachel Roupell, who died in May 2010 aged 98 years, was the second wife of Brigadier George Roupell VC CB DL, last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment – his first wife, with whom Rachel had been a special friend, had died in 1958.

Rachel Roupell was an elegant and charming lady who for the present Regiment is particularly remembered for all the wonderful support she gave to the Queen’s Surreys Museum at Clandon from its setting up there until she moved to the West Country in the 1990s. As well as undertaking all the mundane tasks of repairing uniforms and cleaning medals and silver, it was through her inspiration and detailed work that the last colours of 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment were so wonderfully mounted and displayed. The Museum owes her a great debt.

Besides her Regimental activities in supporting Brigadier Roupell, Rachel was throughout her life much involved with the Red Cross. She was firstly Commandant of the Branch at Yeovil where she moved after the War and after her first marriage to look after her parents. Then moving to Surrey she ran the Residential Training Centre at Wonersh. After this and her marriage to Brigadier Roupell she took on the appointment of President of the overall Surrey Red Cross. In all these tasks she was greatly admired for her diligence and inspirational leadership. She is remembered with fondness by many.



Branch Secretaries

5th Bn OMA-QRR:	1 Chatfield Esq, 13 Wood Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3NN	Tel: 01483 429425
6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR	Tel: 0132 2527017
7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major J M A Tamplin MBE TD, 10 Hugh Street, London SW1	Tel: 0207 8340120
2/6th Bn OCA-QRR:	Major M R Nason TD, 64 Westfield Road, Barnehurst, Kent DA7 6LR	Tel: 0132 2527017
2/7th Bn OCA-QRR:	Colonel D E Blum OBE, 85 Thameside, Staines, Middlesex TW18 2HF	Tel: 01784 450483
East Surrey Reunion:	J Broom Esq, 11 Sayerland Road, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6NU	Tel: 01323 489262
WOs and Sgts Assoc:	J T Izant Esq, Flat 6, Pegasus Court, Rivers Close, Farnborough, Hants GU14 6LZ	Tel: 01252 378707
2/6th East Surrey St Valery Assoc:	Maj A J Redfern MC TD, Courtlands, 12 Kent House, Sheen Rd, Richmond, Surrey TW10 5AV	Tel: 0208 9402191
Queen's Surreys (Kent) Branch:	R F Harper Esq, 90 Osbourne Road, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent TN24 0EQ	Tel: 01233 641330
Queen's Surreys (Suffolk) Branch:	D J Gardner Esq, 106 Oakes Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP32 6QS	Tel: 01284 753160
1st Surrey Rifles:	T W Young Esq BEM, 38 Stanstead Manor, St James Road, Sutton, Surrey	Tel: 0208 643 6189
Queen's Surreys (South West) Branch:	H Stewart Esq, 3 Wentworth Road, Springbank, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 0NS	Tel: 01242 239121



Back Cover:- The map from the regimental archive shows the operations conducted by the 1st and 2nd Battalions of The Queen’s Royal Regiment against the Japanese between September 1943 and VJ Day on 14th August 1945. Inset are photographs of CQMS Chapman of the 1st Bn checking loads in the Braganza Box and of elements of the 2nd Bn with the Chindits crossing the Kaukwe Chaung river.

